

27, 29, and 57-59 remain pending in this application, with Claims 24, 26, 27, 29, 57, and 59 having been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention, in terms that distinguish over the art of record. Claims 24 and 27 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 24, 27, 57, and 59 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,021,892 (Kita et al.).

The Office Action rejected Claims 26 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kita et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,218,458 (Kochis et al.).

The Office Action rejected Claim 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kita et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,900,947 (Kenmochi et al.).

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent Claims 24 and 27 in terms that more clearly define the present invention. Applicants submit that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention defined in Claim 24 is directed to an image processing device. The device

includes a scanner for inputting an image signal, and a control unit for controlling the device and for performing image processing, necessary for copying, on the image signal input from the scanner to provide a first processed image signal.

A bidirectional interface of the device transmits the image signal input by the scanner under the control of the control unit to an external computer. The external computer performs image processing, necessary for copying, on the transmitted image signal to provide a second processed image signal, and receives the second processed image signal from the external computer. An output circuit of the device outputs the first processed image signal and the second processed image signal to a printer.

The device has a plurality of modes, including first and second copying modes. In the first copying mode, the image signal from the scanner is transmitted in order of the control unit, the bidirectional interface, the external computer, the bidirectional interface, the control unit, and the output circuit, so as to perform copying based on the second processed image signal. In the second copying mode, the image signal from the scanner is transmitted in order of the control unit and the output circuit, so as to perform copying based on the first

processed image signal.

One important feature of Claim 24 is that the image processing device has two copying modes. In the first copying mode, the image signal from the scanner is transmitted from the image processing device to the external computer, which performs image processing on the image signal for a copying operation. The processed image signal is then transmitted back to the image processing device and outputted to the printer. In the second copying mode, the image signal from the scanner is outputted to the printer without involvement of the external computer. Thus, the first and second copying modes allow for special editing processing to be performed by an external computer, when such processing is desired, while maintaining a simple construction for the image processing device.

Kita et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to an image processing device for controlling data transfer between a scanner, a printer, and an external computer. Apparently, Kita et al. teaches a copying mode in which an image signal from the scanner is outputted to the printer without using the external computer, a scanner mode in which an image signal from the scanner is outputted to the external computer, and a printer mode in which data from the external computer is outputted to the

printer.

According to Kita et al., the scanner mode and the printer mode are two completely different modes. Therefore, if a copying operation is to be performed using the external computer, first the scanner mode must be selected to input an image to the external computer, and then the printer mode must be selected to output the image to the printer. In other words, an operator must execute two mode selections to have a copying operation performed using the external computer.

Nothing has been found in Kita et al. that teaches or suggests an image processing device that "has a plurality of modes including first and second copying modes, the image signal from said scanner being transmitted in order of said control unit, said bidirectional interface, the external computer, said bidirectional interface, said control unit, and said output circuit in the first copying mode so as to perform copying based on the second processed image signal, and the image signal from said scanner being transmitted in order of said control unit and said output circuit in the second mode so as to perform copying based on the first processed image signal," as recited in Claim 24.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 24 is not

anticipated by Kita et al., and respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Independent Claim 27 is a method claim corresponding to apparatus Claim 24, and is believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 24.

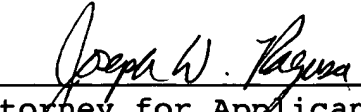
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything that, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as applied against the independent claims herein. Therefore, those claims are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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